

STOP FUNDING OUR ADVERSARIES ACT (SFOA) ACT OF 2022

Congresswoman Yvette Herrell's legislation would bar any federal spending from funding research by or connected to the People's Republic of China (PRC) or the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Funding research in China, directly or indirectly, only serves to undermine America's position in the world, legitimize the CCP, and fails to hold the CCP accountable for imposing health and economic harms to the United States and other countries around the world.

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This legislation requires that any federal agency be prohibited from conducting or supporting research through grants, subgrants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other funding vehicles with the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) or the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

BACKGROUND

- ✦ The CCP has an extensive history of concealing serious and sensitive information to the detriment of every other country in the world. Over the last two years, the global pandemic has revealed how the CCP tried to cover up the extent of the spread of coronavirus, the origins of the coronavirus and how our own government has authorized and facilitated Gain of Function (GoF) research in China.
- ✦ GoF research is "a process that aims to genetically alter a virus or organism to gain (or lose) function on its transmissibility or pathogenicity."^[1]
- ✦ According to federal government data, EcoHealth received tens of millions in federal research dollars, and partnered with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) since 2004.^[2] The CCP directly runs the WIV and manages the Biosafety Level IV (BSL-4) laboratory. Since at least 2017, "the WIV engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments with the Chinese military."^[3]
- ✦ In 2018, two State Department cables raised concerns regarding safety and management weaknesses at the WIV.^[4] Scientists at the WIV noted "a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators needed to safely operate this high-containment laboratory."^[5]
- ✦ According to a January 15, 2021, State Department press release, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced several researchers inside the WIV became sick with COVID-19 like symptoms in the fall of 2019.^[6]
- ✦ \$1.1 million in Obama-era taxpayer funding was funneled to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) through the EcoHealth Alliance.
- ✦ This form of research poses the greatest risk to global health as it is used to genetically mutate viruses that are often deadly to people.

[1] Senator Roger Marshall, "SEN. MARSHALL INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO HALT VIRAL GAIN OF FUNCTION RESEARCH, October 19, 2021.

[2] Betsy McKay, "NIH Presses U.S. Nonprofit for Information on Wuhan Virology Lab," The Wall Street Journal, August 19, 2020.

[3] Representative Guy Reschenthaler, House Appropriations Votes to include Reschenthaler Amendment Prohibiting Funds to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, July 1, 2021.

[4] House Foreign Affairs Committee Minority Staff Report, The Origins of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, Including the Roles of the Chinese Communist Party and the World Health Organization, September 21, 2020

[5] Josh Rogin, State Department cables warned of safety issues at Wuhan lab studying bat coronaviruses, The Washington Post, April 14, 2020.

[6] Office of the Spokesperson, Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, U.S. Department of State, January 15, 2021.

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- ✦ In 2014, top White House officials determined GoF research to be a potential threat and responded by placing a moratorium[1] on GoF research until a review process could be held to determine its risk and benefits.
- ✦ Although this type of research was halted by the Obama Administration, Dr. Anthony Fauci directed the National Institute of Health (NIH) to continue funding GoF research projects under exemption clauses[2] of the moratorium order. This occurred until 2017 when cabinet appointments and pending Senate confirmation hearings allowed the NIH to advocate for the moratorium to be lifted.
- ✦ The funding provided for GoF research[3] involved EcoHealth Alliance, a non-profit organization based in New York whose GoF studies included the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), Wuhan University, and China's CDC and Prevention of Guangdong Province.
- ✦ In addition, the U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S. Department of Defense also provided funding[4] to EcoHealth Alliance.

Until the CCP agrees to be transparent, explains its lies regarding the early stages of the pandemic, and provides access to the WIV's archives and sample database, questions will remain as to the origins of SARS-CoV-2 and the COVID-19 pandemic. It is incumbent upon the United States and likeminded democratic countries around the world to ensure accountability to prevent the CCP's malfeasance from giving rise to a third pandemic in the modern era during the 21st century. A critical first step in this process is to prohibit tax-payer dollars to fund research in Communist China.

[1] The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Department of Health and Human Services, Doing Diligence to Assess the Risks and Benefits of Life Sciences Gain-of-Function Research, The White House, October 17, 2014.

[2] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Framework for Guiding Funding Decisions about Proposed Research Involving Enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogens, 2017.

[3] Senator Rand Paul, "Fauci's gain-of-function conspiracy and why I'll continue to hold him, his allies accountable," Fox News, February 2, 2022.

[4] Senator Roger Marshall, SEN. MARSHALL INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO HALT VIRAL GAIN OF FUNCTION RESEARCH, October 19, 2021.